

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02  
SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 ACDE-00  
/073 W

-----043765 071905Z /43

O R 071841Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7450  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USNATO  
USDEL MC BRUSSELS  
USNMR SHAPE  
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN  
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG  
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06375

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MPOL, GW, US  
SUBJECT: SPEECH BY DEFENSE MINISTER APEL, APRIL 6, 1978

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1. DEFENSE MINISTER APEL SPOKE BEFORE THE BUNDESWEHR  
AND OF ENSUING EXCHANGE WITH PRESS IS NOT AVAILABLE IN  
BONN. BELOW ARE A VERBATIM EXCERPT RELATING TO AWACS,  
AND OTHER HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS.

2. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF  
TRANSCRIPT PORTION OF APEL SPEECH RELATING TO AWACS

(WE WERE NOT ABLE TO OBTAIN COMPARABLE TRANSCRIPTS OF OTHER PORTIONS).

BEGIN TEXT. AS ARMAMENTS MINISTER, I SHALL ABOVE ALL BE ARMAMENTS FINANCING MINISTER. THE WEAPONS SYSTEMS OF THE NEXT YEARS, EXCEPT AWACS, HAVE MORE OR LESS BEEN DECIDED UPON. LET ME SAY A SENTENCE ABOUT AWACS. WE START THE PARLIMANETARY DISCUSSIONS ON THIS QUESTION NEXT WEDNESDAY (APRIL 12) IN THE BUNDESTAG DEFENSE AND BUDGET COMMITTEES. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD TELL THE BUNDESTAG DELEGATES THE FOLLOWING ON THIS PROBLEM. WE CERTAINLY CANNOT UNDERTAKE THE MILITARY APPROVAL OF AWACS ON A NATIONAL BASIS ALONE. THIS IS RATHER A SUBJECT WHICH HAS TO BE LOOKED AT AND EVALUATED ALLIANCE-WIDE, AND FROM A MILITARY POINT OF VIEW. AWACS IS IMPORTANT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF POLITICAL INTEGRATION. I AM CONVINCED THAT THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, HAS PROGRESSED VERY FAR ON THIS QUESTION.

I CANNOT YET SAY, IF WE ARE TO MAKE A POSITIVE DECISION ON AWACS, THAT WE HAVE TO ACCOMMODATE IT IN THE MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING AND IN THE FORCES PLAN. MOREOVER, WE CANNOT PROCEED FROM THE PREMISE THAT THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL MONEY AND POSITIONS FOR AWACS.

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AND THE USA MUST DO MUCH MORE IN ORDER TO CONVERT THE ONE-WAY STREET OF ARMAMENT PROCUREMENT INTO A TWO-WAY STREET. WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT WE HAVE DEVELOPED A WHOLE SERIES OF EXCELLENT WEAPON SYSTEMS WHICH ONE CAN MAKE USE OF WITHOUT MUCH ADO. END TEXT.

3. FINANCING. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS APEL ALSO COMMENTED ON FUTURE FINANCING FOR THE BUNDESWEHR. HE SAID HE WOULD INSIST THAT, AS IN THE PAST, THE BUNDESWEHR

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/073 W

-----043773 071906Z /45

O R 071841Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7451  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
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WOULD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO  
MAINTAIN SECURITY AND THAT MINIMUM FINANCIAL PLANNING  
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WOULD ALWAYS GENERATE A STEADY GROWTH OF THE DEFENSE  
BUDGET, BEARING IN MIND PRESIDENT CARTER'S INITIATIVE  
OF A 3 PER ANNUM GROWTH RATE. IN ADDITION, APEL  
REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ADDITIONAL MASSIVE FINANCIAL  
DEMANDS IN THE DEFENSE SPHERE WOULD MEAN AN OVER-  
PROPORTIONAL GROWTH OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN  
RELATION TO OTHER SECTORS, COMMENTING THAT THIS  
COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED AT THE PRESENT TIME NOR IN  
THE FUTURE. APEL REPORTEDLY SPECIFICALLY CONCEDED

THAT HE HAD DIRECTED THIS REMARK BOTH TO GERMAN AND  
TO FOREIGN AUDIENCES.

4. ER/RB WEAPON. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS APEL  
REFERRED TO CONFUSING NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON THE SUBJECT  
OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON SAYING THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO  
COMMENT ON THESE. HE ALSO SAID THAT A PRODUCTION  
DECISION CAN ONLY BE MADE BY THE U.S., WHILE THE USE  
OF THE ER WEAPON FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE OR FOR ARMS  
CONTROL PURPOSES WOULD BE A MATTER CONCERNING ALL NATO  
PARTNERS. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE FRG TAKES  
THE MATTER OF CONSULTATIONS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE VERY  
SERIOUSLY, AND THAT THE FRG IS INTERESTED IN THE  
FORMATION OF A CONSENSUS IN NATO RELATING TO THE ER  
WEAPON.

5. GENERAL WUST. APEL REPORTEDLY WAS HIGHLY  
COMPLIMENTARY OF GENERAL WUST, AND PARTICULARLY THE  
MANNER IN WHICH HE HAD ACCEPTED APEL'S DECISION TO  
SCRAP THE FORCE STRUCTURE PROPOSALS DEVELOPED BY THE  
GENERAL AND PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE CHANGE  
IN BUNDESWEHR ORGANIZATION.

6. BUNDESWEHR. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, APEL SAID  
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HE CONSIDERED THAT THE BUNDESWEHR WAS AN INTEGRATED AND  
ACCEPTED PART OF GERMAN SOCIETY. THIS STANDS IN  
CONTRAST TO RECENT REMARKS BY PRESIDENT SCHEEL WHICH,  
WHILE HIGHLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE BUNDESWEHR, SAID THAT  
THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY  
INTEGRATED INTO GERMAN SOCIETY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AWACS, AIR DEFENSE, MILITARY BUDGET, WARNING SYSTEMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**To:** STATE DOD  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014